

birds through my glasses for some time and they conform to Whistler's description in every degree. Salim Ali's book shows a Thick-billed Flower-pecker and the birds here are not like it, not having that thick bill. Whenever I approach to get a closer view the bird, which is purely arboreal, becomes shy and flies to the far side of the tree. Being a very active little bird I find it extremely difficult to watch. One pair has built a nest 5 feet from the ground; and the female I have frequently seen sitting on the eggs looking out through the entrance. I put forward the suggestion that the Canal which passes close to Sialkot may be responsible for attracting the birds to this part of the Punjab, as the country round here is not so dry as it used to be.

12TH FRONTIER FORCE REGT.,

R. G. HUTCHINSON,

SIALKOT,

Captain.

PUNJAB,

May 28, 1943.

[According to the *Popular Handbook* the Grey Hornbill (*Tockus birostris*) is absent from the Northern and Western Punjab. The species, however, occurs in the more easterly and better wooded districts of the Province. Whistler himself records it from Ludhiana and Ambala in his papers on the birds of these districts published in our *Journal*. Salim Ali's statement that it is entirely absent from the Punjab requires modification. The same applies to the Tickell's Flower-pecker which normally is absent from the drier areas of the Northern and Western Punjab, but occurs in the more easterly districts particularly those contiguous with the Himalayan foot hills. From the author's remarks it is not certain if *P. agile* is the species referred to.—EDS.]

VI.—THE EUROPEAN COMMON PARTRIDGE (*PERDIX PERDIX*) IN PERSIA.

Some time ago I sent you the skin of a European Common Partridge obtained by Capt. G. L. Sawdaz in Persia last year and in confirming the identification, you asked for further particulars as regards the locality where the specimen was procured. In this connection Capt. Sawdaz now writes as follows:—

'I was then at a place in Kurdistan variously called Senandaj, Sinneh and Senna. In the map in the *B.N.H.S. Journal* illustrating the article on Birds of N.-W. Persia it is marked as Senna and appears to be in the Province of Ardelan which is well south of Ajerbaijan, the only locality mentioned in the *B.N.H.S. Journal*. The actual specimen I sent you was shot about 5 miles east of Senna. There were 4 or 5 coveys in some cultivation in a valley. I shot 8 birds myself one day including the one I sent you. At

that time I was periodically travelling 100 miles or so along all the roads radiating from Senna and I saw partridges in all directions though never many.

On one occasion I shot one bird out of a good sized covey on top of a 7,000 ft. pass about 80-90 miles west of Senna—well above the Chukor line. Senna itself was about 4,500 ft. to the best of my recollection.

There is no doubt that the Common Partridge is fairly common all over that area, as my observations were mostly made from the road and there must have been many more in the less disturbed places.'

I hope the above further information regarding the occurrence of the Common Partridge in Persia and its distribution will be of interest.

17 STORE ROAD,
BALLYGUNGE,
CALCUTTA,

J. A. CERGH.

July 2, 1943.

VII.—DESCRIPTION OF CHICK, IN DOWN, OF
THE SIMLA HILL PARTRIDGE (*ARBOROPHILA*
TORQUEOLA MILLARDI).

As this stage of the above does not appear to have been described it may not be out of place to describe one which came into my possession this year. It was taken on May 30th when it was not more than a day old.

Description.—A broad band of chestnut base of bill (where it is pinched in near) to the nape where it is 12.5 mm.; a broad buff supercilium extending down the side of the neck. A blackish brown streak from posterior corner of the eye, broadening out over the ear coverts.

Back, to extremity of body, dark brown mottled lightly with red brown.

Side of body, including wing, mottled dark and lighter red brown.

Chin and throat pale buff. A band across breast dark brown mottled with buff and grey which also spreads along the flanks. Abdomen pale buff.

Bill: upper and lower mandibles yellow except across the nostrils where it is horn. Legs and feet dusky yellow. Iris deep reddish brown.

SIMLA,
July 28, 1943.

A. E. JONES.